

Attorney Docket No. 5729.0015-00

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moving said top ring holding said workpiece to a transferring device after
polishing, said transferring device including a support member;

moving said transferring device so that said support member contacts said
workpiece; and

transferring said workpiece from said top ring to said transferring device.

57. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein said support member
has a suction hole connected to a vacuum source, so that the workpiece is attracted to
said support member when said transferring device is moved toward said workpiece.

58. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein said support member
has a pad thereon so that said pad contacts the workpiece when said transferring
device is moved toward said workpiece.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Supervisory Patent Examiner David Sherbel for the courtesies extended during telephone interviews held on December 19, 2000 and January 3 and 5, 2001 with Applicants' representative, Richard V. Burgujian. During the interview, the status of the application was discussed, but no conclusions were reached regarding the patentability of the claims.

By this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 35, 37, 38, and 41-48 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 22-25, 27, 30, 36, 39, 40, and added new claims 49-58. Claims 1-34, 36, 39, 40, and 49-58 now remain pending in this application.

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Applicants maintain the positions set forth in the Amendment filed on May 21, 1999 and incorporate by reference the remarks set forth in that Amendment responding to paragraphs 4-6, 8, 9, 11-14 of the outstanding Office Action.

Further, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.173(c), Applicants provide the following explanation of the support in the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 5,476,414 for amended claims 22-25, 39, and 40 and newly-added claims 49-58. Support for claims 22-25, 40, and 49 may be found, for example, at column 7, lines 11-17 and in Fig. 7. Support for claim 39 may be found, for example, at column 6, line 2 to column 7, line 10. Support for claims 50, 54, and 55 may be found, for example, at column 4, lines 3-23. Support for claim 51 may be found, for example, at column 4, lines 24-39. Support for claim 52 may be found, for example, at column 8, line 31 to column 9, line 38 and in Figs. 14 and 15. Support for claim 53 may be found, for example, at column 9, line 41 to column 10, line 1 and in Fig. 16. Support for claim 56 may be found, for example, at column 8, line 55 to column 9, line 38 and in Fig. 15. Support for claim 57 may be found, for example, at column 9, lines 6-15. Support for claim 58 may be found, for example, at column 9, lines 16-31.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, including those made in the May 21, 1999, Amendment, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-34, 36, 39, 40, and 49-58.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 9, 2001

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